

REMARKS

Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for her comments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this patent application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. Currently, Claims 1-21 and 50-74 are pending, with Claims 60-74 withdrawn from consideration.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-21 and 50-59 have been examined with no claims being allowed. Applicants respectfully request cancellation of Claims 60-74.

Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 50 by changing the term "facing layer" to "facing material" to be consistent with the terms used throughout the specification and the claims.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. No additional fee is due for this Amendment because the number of independent claims has been reduced and the total number of claims has been reduced.

Double Patenting Rejection

The provisional rejection of Claims 1-21 and 50-59 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 49 of copending U.S. Application No. 09/855,189 in view of Cederblad et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,885,686) is respectfully traversed in view of the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Examiner has acknowledged receipt of the Fourth Information Disclosure Statement filed 20 May 2004, and has provided Applicants with a copy of the corresponding Form PTO-1449 with her initials next to each reference indicating consideration of the cited references.

Applicants filed a Third Information Disclosure Statement on 26 November 2003. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgment of

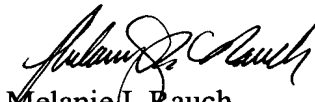
consideration of each of the references cited in the Third Information Disclosure Statement.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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